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The Grizzly, February 20, 2020

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UC hosts "The Vagina Monologues"

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Last Saturday, Peer Advocates and Break-away Productions hosted a benefit production of the play "The Vagina Monologues" written by American playwright and activist Eve Ensler.

The monologues inspired Ensler to create "V-Day" a global activist movement to end gun violence against women and girls.

The monologues are comprised of various personal monologues from diverse groups of women stemming from

their own experiences.

Over a dozen student actors read the short monologues that shared the real experiences of women and their feelings towards having a vagina, including aspects of feminine experience. Many of these included sex, body image, menstruation, female genital mutilation, masturbation, birth, and orgasm.

This year, the monologues were directed by sophomore Jessica Celli and juniors Shura McCartin and Gabby DeMelfi.

For their directorial debut, McCartin re-



Photo Courtesy of Katie Bean

flected on her first-time experience and how auditions played out for

the production.

"For determining who would be the best

See **Monologues** on pg. 2

Spend a semester in Philadelphia

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Studying here on campus is a great way to improve your academic skills, but being able to go off-campus and into the city of Philadelphia provides rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a new perspective not only academics but on the world around them. Ursinus offers this experience by matching Ursinus classes taught in Philadelphia with internships,

independent study, and diverse courses at Drexel University.

Each "Philly-X" experience will be unique to each student, providing a complement to their Collegeville-based education. Students will be able to get to know new cultures by eating new foods, seeing new things, learning from different perspectives, and meeting new students who come from different backgrounds.

During this program, students stay "at the Axis Apartments at 36th

and Chestnut – that's in University City, right between Drexel and UPenn," says Kelly Sorensen. "The meal plan is basically eating out for every meal! Shake Shack, California Pizza, Starbucks, and Wawa are on the list, but the student's last fall also really enjoyed restaurants like New Delhi Indian and Sang Kee Noodle House," Sorensen added.

He continued with, "The meal plan card also works at two grocery

See **PhillyX** on pg. 2

Made  **-ON- Campus**



Artwork by Paige Springmann

Monologues cont. from pg. 1

fit for each monologue we held auditions and from there Jess, Gabby, and I discussed who we thought would be a good fit for each one based on how their auditions went,” she said.

The directors had the various female students read short excerpts from the selected monologues. Then, depending how they performed, directors decided if the actors kept the monologue they auditioned with or asked them to read a different one to see if it would be a better fit.

McCartin continued, “We wanted it less traditional and didn’t turn anyone away because

just by showing up we knew that our performers were showing an interest in being a part of V-Day and wanted to be part of the movement.”

Student director Gabby DeMelfi said the monologues have been her favorite experience at Ursinus. She’s been part of the production, as an actor, since her freshman year but this year was her first time behind the scenes.

“Having been a part of this production before, I had a general idea going into this what I was looking for each piece. It’s hard, really, to describe exactly how I knew who I wanted for each part, it was just a feeling,” she said.

She continued to explain how she came up with her directorial decisions for the actors. “For directing each monologue, I started by having each person read their monologue to me to see how they interpreted their monologue without the influence of my direction. After they read the monologue, I would give them notes on how I envisioned the piece and how the piece is typically meant to be performed and had them take those notes into account while they read,” she said.

An important factor to remember about the monologues is the stories and experiences of different women.

Although student actors had the opportunity to perform the monologues of others, it’s crucial to provide the proper representation of the stories.

“I wanted to make sure we kept true to the monologues as they weren’t the performers’ story. I knew there was a fine line between acting and delivering someone else’s story, and I didn’t want to cross it,” said McCartin.

Junior Maddy Wert, who performed for two consecutive years, discussed her performance of “Because He Like to Look At It”.

“I didn’t find it too difficult because I could relate to the piece that I

was performing. I had felt similar emotions as she did, or how I think she did, and it just felt like a special bond between me, the author and the piece,” she said.

She continued, “I love performing, especially something that has a moral or message as powerful as the Vagina Monologues.”

Another student actor, Myla Haan, reflected on being part of the production for three years.

“Year after year, this production creates a wonderful bond between the performers, even if it’s just for one night, that’s just empowering to be a part of,” she said.

PhillyX cont. from pg. 1

stores, so you can stash some fresh food in the mini-fridge that is in every room.”

The program takes place every fall semester and the application process can be found online and takes only 15-20 minutes. The deadline for the application is February 28th.

Though there are no specific requirements that students need to meet to participate,

maintaining a decent GPA will be a factor that will be considered. Also, students will receive an all-you-can-ride SEPTA pass, which will provide you access to get around the city. This will also cover the train and the 93 bus back to Ursinus’s campus.

Students’ financial aid “travels,” so the program will cost the same as a semester in Collegeville.

Sorensen discussed how this experience can be so beneficial to

students.

“Some students benefit most from an internship in Philadelphia – an internship that would be hard to drive to from Collegeville multiple days a week. And Philadelphia has tons of interesting internships,” he said.

Some students benefit from taking a course at Drexel or USciences in an area like animation, pharmacology, international business, computer game development,

child psychopathology, or international trade.

Some students benefit from taking Ursinus-in-Philly courses taught by Ursinus teachers like Professor Lori Daggar, who uses the entire city Philadelphia as a classroom, or Prof. Matt Kozusko, who has a three-day road trip planned for students in his course.

“Ursinus-in-Philly courses satisfy several core curriculum requirements” Sorensen said. All questions regarding the PhillyX should be emailed to ksorensen@ursinus.edu



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College launches first mobile app

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Last month, on Friday January 31st, Ursinus launched its first ever official phone app, MobileU(rsinus), available for download through the Apple app store and Google Play.

The goal of the app is to create a mass messaging app for the Ursinus community that isn't mass emails. Through a collaboration between library and information technologies, college communications, and campus safety and emergency management, the college was able to meet this goal.

It was designed as a "one stop shop" for students in need of quick access to campus information such as dining options, schedule and grades, campus activities and news, and athletic

schedules, but most notable is its safety and emergency resources.

The most revolutionary of these is the addition of a mobile BlueLight system, which sends campus safety your GPS location to pinpoint you and send an officer over, upon students request.

In addition to this, there's the inclusion of the "friend walk home," which connects you and a friend's phones together so that campus safety can keep an eye on your location as you walk to your designation. If a friend isn't available to monitor you, campus safety can do so through the virtual walk home.

According to the Director of Campus Safety, John S. Bera, these functionalities are actively being used, especially in the later hours of

the evening, and have been met with a lot of "positive views" on both virtual walk features thus far.

However, Bera was quick to remind the community that these new options are not a replacement for the traditional campus safety officer escort, but rather an alternative for those who wish to be safely walked home without troubling an officer. Though as he said, "it's never a bother, (as) safety is first and foremost." The ability to report discriminatory acts, send emergency notifications, and enter a live chat with Campus Safety have also been added to the safety and emergencies section of the app.

When asked about the decision to have a mobile BlueLight system instead of a physical

one as seen across most campuses, Bera replied, "I have yet to see a standard search radius around the BlueLight activation."

Because of this, Bera fears that if the search radius were too small and something were to happen to someone outside of the standard search, he'd be unable to live with himself.

"The college had them for a time, they are notoriously not reliable, they were checked on a weekly basis and sometimes one week it would work fine and the next week they were exposed to the elements," he said.

When asked about a situation where one's phone was to die, Bera admitted, "That's always the great quantifier... [phone battery life] will continue to be a perpetual problem... it's a great

question, (but) I don't know that we could quantify an answer or be able to respond to that."

However, he believes that "knowing that we have this available, the reliability of it is a little bit more guaranteed versus a box that has been snowed on and backed up into like the one that was in the gravel lot."

Bera emphasized the changed outlook of the campus safety department due to the adoption of the mobile app.

"We would previously tell [students] to make sure they have campus safety's number saved as a favorite in case you ever need us," he said.

Now the conversation has changed to recommend not only this, but to download the app as well for all its functions, especially the safety functions.

"Slavery in the Age of Memory" talk

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Last Tuesday, Ursinus College welcomed guest speaker Ana Lucia Araujo to discuss current debates about slavery and explore the history and the memory of the Atlantic slave trade and their social and cultural legacies.

The event was organized by the African-American and Africana Studies, English, and History departments, and sponsored by the Ursinus College Arts

& Lectures Committee, along with other departments.

Araujo is a professor of history at Howard University and a social and cultural historian. She is also an author of numerous books and has written for various magazines.

Throughout the talk, Araujo made references to her book, "Slavery in the Age of Memory: Engaging the Past."

Araujo's desire to write her book stemmed from interest about "the past of the memory of slavery."

The book focuses on how "social actors and groups in Europe, Africa, and the Americas engaged with the slave past of their societies." She talks about collective memory that remains in the private sphere (in the families), and in cultural memory. These memories enter particular spaces: museums especially; not only in the United States, but also other countries, too.

Professor of history Dr. Johanna Mellis, who attended this event, said, "The National Museum of African American

History and Culture in DC has collected tens of thousands of items since 2016, which is an astounding number. Yet even this museum presents problematic narratives."

Mellis continued, "One exhibit, titled 'The Paradox of Liberty,' situates slave owner Thomas Jefferson in the foreground amongst other people. The bricks containing his enslaved people's names on them have been placed in the background, which are very challenging for visitors to see. This is quite

the contradiction in light of the museums' aims."



Q&A with the creator of “High Education”

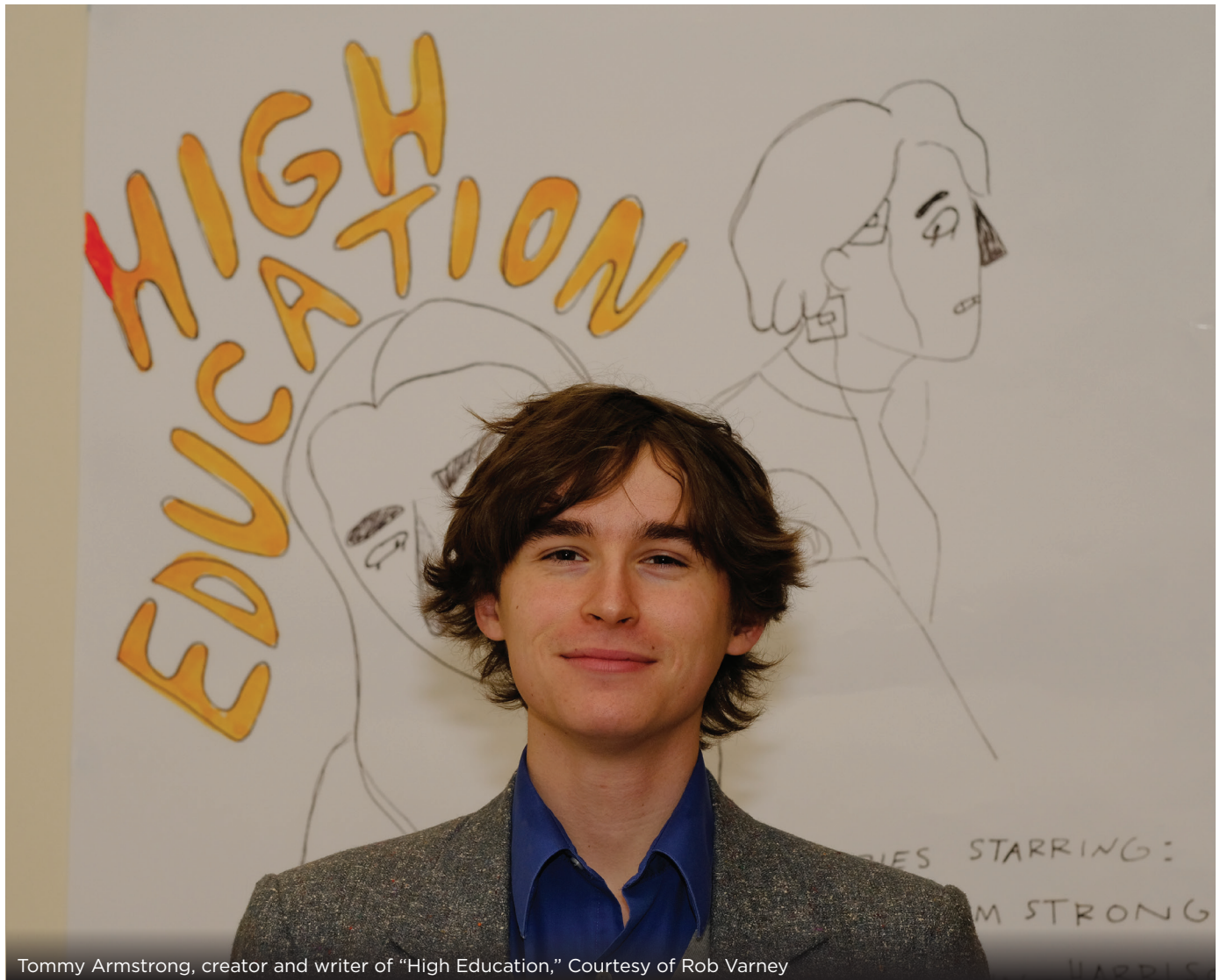
Colleen Murph

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In a Q&A, Senior English major Tommy Armstrong, the creator of a digital series called “High Education,” explains the process behind making and writing a satirical series about college life.

What is High Education about?

High Education is a series about drugs in higher ed. Heidi (Anika Backelin-Harrison '19) has some bad oranges in a student experiment and loses her memory. The series is a satire of two sides of academia, as Professor Doughty (Natalie Sandone) tries to control her department and her students as Heidi relearns what college is. The show is energized and might make your mother dizzy so it's a fun show for the Internet generations. There's a bunch of talented people who helped me along the way and put a ton of time and skill in. Alex Wag-
oner '21 was the director of photography and played Jay; Liam Wor-
check '22 composed and performed all original music for the series, and all the actors including Anika Backelin-Harri-
son, Natalie Sandone, Robin Brecker, Bella Ragomo, Greg Poppa, professors Jon Volkmer, Rebecca Roberts, and Domenick Scudera, and



Tommy Armstrong, creator and writer of “High Education,” Courtesy of Rob Varney

tons more.

What was the process for creating High Education like?

I started writing High Education on the train ride home from Saturday Night Fever at the Walnut Street Theatre, since my high school chemistry teacher was giving away her tickets. It follows a neuroscience student, Constance, who makes homemade study drugs and tests them on student subjects. In 8 months I had 500 pages of script which I spent the next 8 months revising. Meanwhile I applied to the Bear Innovation Competition and got 2nd place, which got

us \$2,500! I used the money to buy a Nikon D750 and lens, plus some audio and light equipment, I applied to Summer Fellows with the proposal to research TV series and films which used satire this way and/or portrayed drugs and got in with my adviser Domenick Scudera, who developed a list of films with me to see and which we would discuss at our weekly meetings, as well as filming progress. That summer I filmed the series with actors I had met at Ursinus, community theatre, online, or who were my dad.

What have you learned

from this project? What sort of emotions and lessons have you gone through?

I have learned so much over the course of making High Education. While making the series, I started making all sorts of comedy series that were put online such as Gary's World, which follows the downfall of an inept but devoted vlogger. Interactive Doctor, which is a click-your-own-adventure (I got a cease-and-desist from Choose Your Own Adventure) series, Kids React--made with Liam Worcheck and Jenna Menapace--which is a nightmare satire of the YouTube show of the

same name, and more. It's all on tommycarr-
ollarmstrong.com. Stay tuned for Elders React, coming out next week! Anyway, I learned I love making comedy series, especially satires.

Where can someone watch High Education?

We started releasing the first 8 episodes over 8 weeks this summer, and the next 8 this winter. As of this week, you can now watch all of High Education online! Watch it as fast as you want. You can find it at Tom-
myCarrollArmstrong.com, and my IG @ tommycarmstrong links to the YouTube playlist. Check it out!

Get to know new tech with a DLA Fellow

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It can be hard to navigate new technology and digital tools, especially when you don't quite know where to start. However, the DLA Fellows in Myrin Library are here to help. DLA (Digital Liberal Arts) Fellows consult with faculty and students alike, and even sometimes host workshops to teach people how to use digital tools for courses and projects.

"DLA Fellows can help faculty, staff, and students learn how to use a variety of technology," Christine Iannicelli, Instructional Technology Librarian at Myrin Library, said. Iannicelli explained that these technologies include audio recording and podcasting software such as Audacity, video recording and editing software such as Shotcut, and digital storytelling such as Powtoon animated videos, Sway presentations, and Omega exhibits. DLA Fellows also help with online timelines, website

creation on Wordpress, and infographics and other visualizations such as maps.

"The types of technology DLA Fellows get questions about vary from semester to semester depending on interest and class assignments, but generally podcasting, video production, and digital storytelling are our top three requests," Iannicelli

li explained.

Senior DLA Fellow Tiffini Eckenrod has enjoyed learning about the numerous digital tools that students and staff may have questions about. "I have learned about various digital tools and software that I didn't even know existed," Eckenrod said. "For example, Apporto allows anybody to use Windows and Windows

exclusive software on their computer, even Mac users, by giving people access to a fake desktop of sorts. There is probably a digital tool out there for almost any problem I encounter on my computer, which is amazing."

Eckenrod enjoys the possibilities that come with teaching someone a new digital tool. "I hope that students [and] staff

learn how to use the digital tool that I showed them and that they are [interested] in using this digital tool more in the future," Eckenrod said. However, Eckenrod has also had various other experiences while being a DLA Fellow that go beyond training faculty and students on technology. "My favorite part about being a DLA Fellow is that I get to have experiences that I would not have been able to otherwise, such as helping out with escape rooms and working with the college's 3D printers."

Iannicelli explained that students can make an appointment to meet with a DLA Fellow on the DLA Fellow webpage. "I am also looking to hire new DLA Fellows, so if students are interested, they can apply on Handshake for the DLA Apprentice position," Iannicelli said. "That position gives them the opportunity to learn this technology on the job and shadow a Fellow so no previous tech experience is required."



DLA Fellow Tiffini Eckenrod in Myrin Library, Courtesy of Rob Varney

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Faculty Baden Lecture: Mark Ellison	Memorial Service for Carol Williams	CPR & First Aid Training	Agape Meal	Bear Tracks Lunch and Learn	Conversations about and across Difference Lunch	Surveillance Capitalism talk with Mutale Nkonde
3:45pm	2:00pm	8:30am	6:30pm	12:00pm	12:00pm	7:30pm
Pfahler Auditorium	Bomberger	IDC 114	Bomberger	Bears Den	Fac/Staff Dining Room	Olin Auditorium

“The Good Place” ends in . . . a good place

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Last week marked the end of one of my favorite shows, Michael Schur’s “The Good Place.”

I’ll try not to spoil the series, as it’s one I believe everyone should watch. But the show, despite its sitcom format, asks very deep questions of its audience. What are we doing on Earth? What makes life matter? And, the question referenced in the show several times, what do we owe to each other?

As an Ursinus student, this question should sound familiar, as it’s one of the core tenets of CIE. Complex

moral discussions are a cornerstone of the Ursinus ethos, and yet I as an individual find it exceptionally difficult to navigate these questions in everyday life. Outside of classroom theory, these questions can seem almost irrelevant.

One character on The Good Place, Chidi, seems to know everything there is to know about moral philosophy. He’s a professor who has read every book on the subject, and mulled over every conceivable moral dilemma in his mind. However, when it comes to real life, Chidi has incredible difficulty making even the most basic of decisions. In this

way, the show is illustrating that our actions matter far more than our theories when it comes to doing right in this world.

Among the most noteworthy aspects of The Good Place is that no decision is without some form of consequence. When people make decisions in life, there is a point system attributed to each decision. A deed like giving flowers to your mother, which 500 years ago might have been awarded a positive point value, today might be awarded a negative point value because the purchase of those flowers could be promoting child labor

in Yemen. In a society that rewards capitalistic consumption, there is no way to truly do the right thing.

So where do we go from here? Well not to spoil the show, again, but there is something to be said for the act of trying. The goal, instead of achieving a perfect point value, might be to do what you can. When you see litter outside, pick it up. When mail is sent to the wrong mailbox, give it to the person to whom it belongs. The world can be a good place, as unbelievable as it may seem, if only we try to help one another. That is what we owe to each other.

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Lend your voice
to The Grizzly

Join us for our
weekly news
meeting

Thursdays, 4:45
p.m.
Ritter 141

“Marriage Story” isn’t divorced from humanity

Ian Abrahams
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This year’s Oscars had a diverse offering of films from a variety of studios. Amongst these, one Netflix movie stood out amongst all the nominees, despite its only major win being Laura Dern (deservingly) for Best Supporting Actress. “Marriage Story” brought subtle humor and attention to realism without leaving the audience with a bad taste in their mouth, the way one might expect from a film about divorce. In fact, like in any good realistic fiction, throughout the movie you get the feeling that these are real, everyday

people who love each other and are simply struggling to make things work.

Adam Driver’s character, Charlie, is portrayed as a genuinely kind and charismatic father in spite of his large, overarching flaws. This plays well into the conflict he has with Scarlett Johansson’s character, Nicole, as she tries to find a way to overcome her present circumstances without destroying the people from her old life and those that she loves. Such conflict gives her character a much more human role to contrast with Dern’s character, a character who on the surface is trying to help one of our

protagonists but deep down represents something easy to hate: the competitive inhumanity of divorce.

The subtle humor here and there throughout the film helps break the constant tension tearing the couple limb from limb. It also adds realism in the sense that some of it comes from small blunders or specific quirks from the character-driven script. A good example of this is in the closing act, where Nancy, the observer sent to monitor each parent, has a sort of bland but innocent quirk going for her. It’s easy to overlook, but as she innocently requests a glass of water, she represents calm

neutrality in an otherwise hellishly polarized environment.

Other silly mistakes and really heartfelt moments demonstrate the film’s ability to come full circle without it feeling forced. Every time one of the parents makes any error, it finds a way to bubble up as an implication that they will lose the custody war. The two protagonists’ admirable flaws, as detailed in the opening couples-therapy scene, become reasons for hatred. There are little things, too, but I won’t spoil those here.

This plays into many difficult emotions throughout the film. Driver’s singing scene in the restaurant high-

lights his struggle with humanity while going through such an inhuman process as divorce. In the end, Driver’s character reflects on his drastic mistakes, starting a redemption by bringing his work to L.A. Meanwhile it is clear Johansson is still full of conflict.

While the feelings in the film fluctuate from awkward to largely powerful and negative, it has a net-positive vibe in which strong overtones of compassion shine through. The lead characters clearly still love each other, even if not in marriage.

MBB cont. from pg. 8

looking at the bigger picture. Hughes explained the policy that keeps everyone in line: “No matter what we are staying connected and positive. We have a saying, ‘90 percent solutions.’ When problems occur throughout the season we always try and fix them right away, instead of mourning.” With that policy in mind, the dynamic of the team continues to be the best that it has been.

With the possibility of the playoffs, the team also wants to “just keep everybody focused on the next game. We never

look ahead of any opponent; we try and play every team like it is the best team in the country.” Not looking too far ahead is going to be a key factor for this team, and taking their chances day by day is going to make or break their chances at a playoff position.

We wish the UC men’s basketball team the best of luck as they continue to work hard to secure themselves a spot in playoffs. Go Bears!

Gymnastics cont. from pg. 8

The Valentine’s Exhibition gives the coaches more insight on how to proceed for the remainder of the season. In fact, the Bears have another interesting weekend following their intrasquad that includes two meets in one weekend. This is the first time the team will experience this adversity as they compete on Friday at the Philadelphia Convention Center with Temple University, West Chester University, Southern Connecticut State University, and Illinois State and then travel to Ithaca, New York for another

meet on Sunday against two of their top Division III rivals. This gymnastics-packed weekend will again give the gymnasts and coaches the opportunity to change up the lineups and utilize their depth to prepare for their regional competition later in the season. The end goal for the Ursinus Gymnastics Team this season is to qualify as a team to Nationals which will be held in Ithaca, New York this March. To do this, the team must finish top 3 at the regional competition held at Springfield College. The last time the Bears qualified as a team was in 2017, meaning

that this year’s senior class is the only class to have experienced a National Championship meet. In addition, the Bears hope to send multiple individual competitors to the Championship. Similarly, only two seniors have competed as individuals at Nationals: Ellie LaFountain (writer of this story) became an All-American on-floor in 2018, and Skylar Hass competed this past year in Wisconsin on the beam. You can follow the gymnastics team throughout the rest of their season through their Instagram and Twitter accounts, @ursinusgym.



Gymnastics team, Photograph Courtesy of Robert Varney

Scores as of Monday, February 17th

M. Basketball	W. Basketball	Wrestling	Track & Field	Men's Lax
Ursinus 80 vs. Washington College 66	Ursinus 63 vs. Washington College 64	Ursinus at Centennial Conference Championships 4th-60.5	Men's and Women's at Valentine Invitational	#15 Ursinus 13 vs. #20 Stevenson 12
Ursinus 68 vs. #7 Johns Hopkins 74	Ursinus 62 vs. Johns Hopkins 64			

Gymnastics aims for first nationals appearance since 2017

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With five official meets down and five more regular season meets to go, the Ursinus College Gymnastics team is off to an exciting start to their season, and improved much from where they were last year. The Bears have seen an increase in their total score at almost every meet this season and just recently received their highest score (188.95) since 2017 at Springfield last weekend.

To what do they owe their success? Senior standout Skylar Haas said, “Everyone in the lineup this year wants to do well for the team, and our goal is on the bigger picture. A lot of motivation comes from the feeling after hitting a routine and seeing the positive reaction from teammates.” Haas adds, “That is what the team this year is all about.”

Although the Bears are halfway through their regular season, they still have a tough schedule ahead of them. For the first time in at least four years, however, the gymnasts will have a weekend off from official competition and instead participate in a mid-season intrasquad at home. This in-house competition will allow for some of the gymnasts to rest their bodies, while others will get the chance to break into the competition lineups and compete under pressure.

For some, the Valentine’s Exhibition came at the perfect time. With many of the gymnasts returning from injury, this exhibition gave them the chance to show their coaches and teammates their routines that might not have been ready for their season opener back in January.

See **Gymnastics** on pg. 7



Photograph Courtesy of Robert Varney

Men’s Hoops on the brink of clinching CC playoff berth

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The Ursinus College Men’s Basketball Team has made their presence felt in the Centennial Conference, and they do not plan on taking their foot off the gas. With the end of their season approaching, the Bears have their eyes set on the playoffs and have put themselves in a good position to compete for the CC title.

Setting themselves up to earn a playoff spot was not easy for

the Bears. The team had to make sure that they understood not only what they had to do as team, but also what mistakes they had made in the past, in order to learn from them and readjust. Sophomore captain Ryan Hughes explained what the team had to do in order to be in the position that they are now: “It took a lot of hard work and preparation. We had to focus on ourselves before looking into our opponents,” states Hughes. He also went on to talk about

the importance of the connection that the team has, and how being able to overcome difficulties together can make the team stronger: “Just staying connected through hardships make us the team we are.” Making sure that the team stays together to solidify the playoff game is one of Hughes’ main goals.

As the playoffs approach, the nerves of a team can grow. But Hughes wants to make sure that the team keeps

See **MBB** on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Wed. 2/19	Thursday 2/20	Friday 2/21	Saturday 2/22	Sat. Cont.	Sunday 2/23
Men’s Basket- ball at Alvernia	#12 Men’s Lax at Cabrini	Gymnastics at Pink Invite	#12 Men’s Lax vs. Mary Wash- ington	Women’s Bas- ketball at F&M	Gymnastics at Ithaca (with Cabrini)
Wrestling at Alvernia			Men’s Basket- ball at F&M	Women’s Ten- nis vs. Arcadia	Wrestling at Mideast Fu- tures Touna- ment
			Men’s Track and Field at Keogh Invita- tional		

